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CIA: May be running the country

Does the Central Intelligence Agency now direct the White House and America?

The discovery of a hidden member of the Bechtel group (Philip Habib) in a critical position within the Reagan Administration, along with the others, raises very serious questions about our actual form of government (an oligarchy?) and, as can be determined easily by the press, whose interests are being served.

Significantly, during the cold war when Bechtel was much smaller, military intelligence operated an international engineering and heavy construction company with an office in center city Philadelphia. When the officer in charge saw the right kind of applicant, he offered a job as a company agent — in effect, as a spy. Today, large numbers of military men retire ("ex-military" seems no longer to obtain) into lucrative business and government positions, remaining loyal soldiers who follow orders. A military organization is not democratic.

Bechtel is a highly secretive organization. It can be seen as a natural consolidation both of intelligence functions and of the many scattered, lucrative and strategically located construction companies, modified by time and circumstance. Moreover, its officers may well be men of personal honor and integrity, but in the pursuit of its mandate to "make the world safe for capitalism" the C.I.A. can exert a mind and morality of its own over those even distantly associated with it, just like the Mafia.

As a consequence, the distinctively rough hand and style of the C.I.A. can be perceived ever more clearly in the terror, chaos and bloodshed that accompanies the Reagan Administration's conduct of domestic and foreign affairs. We see it in recent major events and in the influence of Reagan policies on the true meaning of America today, and worse promised for tomorrow.

However, shall we dare to speak of things that President Reagan insists "the American people do not need to know"? Do not some members of the press also have blind faith in him and believe that "democracy does not work, anyhow"? We shall see for ourselves.

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